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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 507  
By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to recognize the week of February 2-6, 1998 as  
"Earthquake Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body should recognize the efforts of  
exemplary organizations in our state that strive to educate our citizens about natural disasters  
and teach Tennesseans how to prepare and protect themselves, if one should occur; and

WHEREAS, the week of February 2-6, 1998, has been designated as "Earthquake  
Awareness Week" for Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the sponsors who have worked assiduously to promote earthquake  
awareness week in our state include the Central United States Earthquake Consortium  
(CUSEC), the Center for Earthquake Research and Information (CERI), the Mid-South Chapter  
of the American Red Cross (ARC), Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) and  
Collierville and other local Emergency Management Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the laudable goal for the 1998 earthquake awareness campaign is to  
develop partnerships in disaster response through education, training, response and mitigation;  
such partnerships will facilitate increased awareness in our state, so we will be more aware of  
the seismic risk in this region – especially the risk along the New Madrid Fault; and

WHEREAS, the greatest earthquake risk east of the Rocky Mountains is along the New  
Madrid fault system, which extends 150 miles southward from Cairo, Illinois through New  
Madrid and Carruthersville, Missouri, down through Blytheville, Arkansas to Marked Tree,

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Arkansas; the fault dips into Kentucky near Fulton and into our state near Reelfoot Lake, and extends southeast through to Dyersburg; and

WHEREAS, although earthquakes along the New Madrid Fault are much less frequent than in California and other areas of the world, the damage that results when they do occur can be far greater due to the underlying geology; and

WHEREAS, many things can be done to protect our population and minimize the death, injury and economic loss that often accompanies large earthquakes; this earthquake awareness week, therefore, is especially important to those persons who live along the New Madrid Fault, because they need to continue to plan, build better buildings and make sure that earthquake preparedness becomes a part of their lives; and

WHEREAS, the Earthquake Information Network in our state has planned several important events during the awareness week to educate the public: a week-long earthquake display with free resource materials will be provided at the Memphis/Shelby County library; the earthquake documentary, "Hidden Fury," will be broadcast on local cable access channels; Memphis Light, Gas and Water is planning an earthquake response drill for February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>; and February 4 has been designated as an earthquake drill day; and

WHEREAS, we cannot prevent earthquakes, but through coordinated efforts we can certainly reduce their deleterious effects; with that in mind, this general assembly acknowledges the importance of "Earthquake Preparedness Week" and encourages the participation of our citizenry in this week's activities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby recognize the outstanding efforts of the members of our local Earthquake Information Providers Network, thank them for their dedication to the preparedness and safety of our state's citizens, and encourage all citizens to participate in the activities the

network and its member organizations have planned for this and future Earthquake Preparedness weeks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recognize February 2-6, 1998 as "Earthquake Awareness Week" in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.